

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia/Bulgaria

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SUBJECT Recently Formed Bulgarian
Exile Committee in Yugoslavia

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1. In early December 1950 the Yugoslav Government established a Committee of Bulgarian Exiles, the ostensible purpose of which is to protect the interests of Bulgarian refugees in Yugoslavia and to obtain their assistance in the "building of socialism" in that country. The man chosen by the Yugoslavs to organize the Committee was one Simic, a Yugoslav and member of the CPY Regional Committee of Belgrade.
2. With the assistance of the UDB, Simic contacted thirty-two of the most prominent Bulgarian refugees in Belgrade and in the immediate vicinity and appointed them members of an organizing committee. Only twenty-seven members attended the first meeting. Throughout the meeting dissatisfaction at Yugoslav interference was so marked that only threats from Simic succeeded in keeping the delegates from walking out. Questions over which most disagreement prevailed follow:
- a. The majority demanded that the organization be placed under the protection of some international body such as the UNO. Simic replied that this was impossible since it would infringe on Yugoslav sovereignty.
- b. The Bulgarians demanded liaison with other Bulgarian exile groups in the West, but this also was refused.
- c. The Bulgarians disagreed with Simic on the extent of their participation in the building of socialism in Yugoslavia.
3. When a vote was finally taken, seven were in favor of the organization, six against it, and the remainder abstained. The following were elected to office:
- President - Dimitar Mihalkov*
Secretary - Nikola Cholakov
Treasurer - Boris Grozdanov.
4. Observing the disunity of the Committee members, Simic decided to form a new Executive Committee of Bulgarians more favorably disposed towards the Yugoslav Government. In order to find these men, he dispatched the following trusted Bulgarians to regions of Yugoslavia with heavy

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concentrations of Bulgarian refugees:

Tzenko Bogdanov, former lawyer and recent commander of the Bulgarian work Brigade, Brotherhood and Unity, who was sent to Nis.

Maxim Petrov, to Novi Sad .

Ivan Piperov, to Kragujevac and Paracin.

Nikola Cholakov, to an unknown destination.

5. After the meeting Alexander Dimitrov Tabakov was arrested for his refusal to cooperate, and an attempt was made to arrest Zalesko Rusov, who, however, succeeded in escaping from Belgrade. The other Committee members were informed that if they and other Bulgarians refused to cooperate with this plan, they would be considered enemies of the regime, would not be permitted to work, and students would be forced to give up their studies.

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Comment: It is not certain whether the name of the President of the Committee given here is correct. [REDACTED] that the President of the Committee was Stojan Radev, former official in various Bulgarian Ministries. For additional information disseminated concerning the formation of a Bulgarian Exile Committee in Yugoslavia [REDACTED]

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